

5 Gray St. Edinburgh
5. 12. 1861

My dear Friend,

A very interesting
letter from thro Dr Carey Cotton
has been sent me for Journal & I
accept it as a deduction to me also
I hasten to thank thro for it. & to
assure thro that thy letter, written
when thy time is so scarce & thy
strength so small, is not value-
less - but has been very acceptable
indeed. I had some trouble service,
perhaps I might say I cannot
tell the extent of its service for Mary
had a portion of it copied into a
newspaper, where everybody
might read the sentiments of an
"American Abolitionist." - We have been
very sorry to hear of thy poor health
during so long a period - but hope
that now it is becoming restored
& that thou wilt be able to take thy place
in the service that yet must fall to
the share of the abolitionists & our
sympathy in the cause is as great as
ever; & I do not think that the

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Anti-Slavery feeling has any whit
diminished in Britain. ~~And~~ it
is no evidence of its being less, that
we have failed in hearty unity with
the northern side in this sad war
among you. The little pamphlet
covers the whole ground (for we
have not yet done our duty). - I fully
believe if you had if the Federal
Govt. & Northern people would have
proclaimed an anti-Slavery war &
acted in accordance with such
proclamation, that the voice of
Britain would with one hearty
acclaim ^{have} wished you God speed.
We, like you, hope that this war may
eventuate in the abolition of Slavery.
We hope that it may be the means
of blowing the mists away, & showing
the true state of matters, & revealing
the horrors of slavery, & the complicity
of the North in maintaining them.
But this is a very different thing from
believing the motive of the war to
be anti-Slavery. Almost every move
made by your authorities has
tended to dispel such a notion the possibility
of such belief; & yet your people are
cursing & cavilling because we have

not at once spring up, & charged
them on to fight for the Union, a
Union you have taught us to believe,
& which we still believe, to be based
on the pulping of the poor slaves.
Surely, we have been good scholars,
if we have not learned that the
Slaveholders have ruled your Union
and Government, till a seeming anti-
slavery victory was gained, & then
they could break it no longer, &
went off. We were glad to be
released from such a position,
& thought you too would, in considering
only report that all the slave
states had not gone to that
the point for which you (abolitionists
proper) had been working, had at
length been attained. - But, on the
other hand, your Gov. & people de-
-termined to cheer back these
seceders - to prepare the way for
bending the neck once more under
the yoke of slavery; & to our intense
surprise, our abolition friends
went with the current, gave a
cheer to those who went forth to
battle for the Union, & joined the
cry of denunciation against us
who still occupied the high ground

on which they had placed us! I can
assure thee, it was from our lack
of Anti-Slavery sympathy, but rather
from the opposite, that we could
not see any true Abolition spirit
in this Union - saving movement

¶ But we are very thankful to be
informed by thee, that there is a
strong undercurrent of the genuine
Anti-Slavery motive ^{and feeling} among the
people. We trust it may increase,
& bear fruit abundantly. In the
meantime, this bitter feeling
against England has been fostered.
I now your officers have committed
an outrage on liberty while we
fear may bring on war with us.

Oh! how our hearts sink in the
thought! There would be unequal
disturbance in such a war. War with
you, among whom are those we
are bound to by closer than kinship
ties! + war for such a cause, & at a
time when it would give courage
to the South, who would look upon
the passengers taken from our mail
steamer, as their commissioners, &
this light would glory in a war with

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had been undertaken to protect
them - whereas, it would be simply
for our own protection. It would
be a dangerous thing for us to sail
the Atlantic ocean, if we were
liable to be boarded by a man
of war, seized, & taken prisoner.
Nevertheless, war in all circum-
stances is wrong; & this war
would be peculiarly horrible.
I hope some adjustment may take
place, & that God will avert this
opprobrious calamity. - A war with
England would, I fancy, prove the
crowning triumph of the South.
I earnestly wish we could have
given a decided announcement,
that we should hold no dealings
with the Southern Confederacy; &
then we might have left matters
to take care of themselves. But, as
it is, we are getting involved, & I
doubt we deserve to share in the
judgments slavery brings on all
who sustain it, & do not repent; for
our churches & merchants have not
done their duty. & who can say that he has

done his duty ^{upk} altho you abolitionists leave
more than any maintained the righteous
course in the evil days. We are very anxious
you should not lose one inch of your vantage
ground in any way. - We have read your
circular & read it with attention, we do not
fancy the memorial will do much good,
unless it excites & concentrates attention to
the real issue of the war - & to the duty of all
in the opportunity - We do not think
Lincoln will listen to any suggestions on
this point from a philanthropic point of
view - as he does not see his self-interest
lie in the same direction - Some of us
think he is in league with the South
his proceedings seem so weak & poor; his
dismission of Gen Fremont was a very
decided step in the Southern direction.

We are all anxious the Standard
should be sustained - but I fear we shall
find difficulty in procuring funds to
sustain you - some of our allies say they
would not send any money to you this
year because you waste time & strength
in denouncing England when the
foe, slavery, is before you the same as
ever - still we hope to forward a small
remittance before the anniversary day.
We feel for you very much in the
trouble occasioned you by a change
of plans - I hope it will not terminate
in loss to your adherents. ^{than for} Truly, you
never needed money more, ^{than for} it was a great
mistake to give out, in the Spring, that your

work was likely to be accomplished
for you. I trust you will still
have a very great deal to do, for
the end is not yet. Oh! I long for
your preservation on the right
hand & on the left, and that the
little salt ^{may not} lose its savor! I have
been away from home much this
summer - part of my absence
was spent at Dublin. I frequently
saw R. D. Webb - he is as earnest
as ever - perhaps more earnest than
ever - His letters to you have been
very good indeed - I am very glad
we have some one able & willing
so clearly to set forth the
mind of your friends here on
the matters that concern our cause.
The life of John Brown has been
a great work, I hope it may
sell well & do good - it is a very
superior to any life we had before.

With thou give our united love
to thy wife I accept the same
thyself - We always rejoice to
hear from thee & are thankful
that thou hast been able to send

as such a valuable letter as that
by Mary Cottin, a letter addressed
to her always serves for a great
many of us. So those need have
no anxiety about writing to
more than one. - Mary is
the same in health as when
I wrote last. Had a bright
from her this morning.

With very earnest, affectionate
sympathy in all your struggles
for the slave.

I remain,

Yours, very sincerely,
Eliza Wigham